

Michael Brush

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration, 5630
Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

re: Docket # 98N-1038

This is to urge the FDA to continue the requirement that retail packages or displays of irradiated food include both the logo for irradiation and a prominently displayed statement that the food has been irradiated.

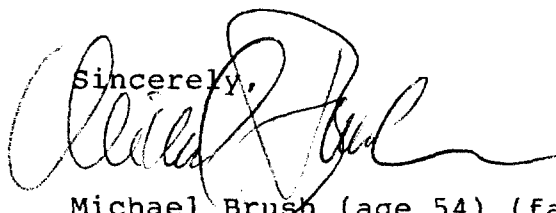
Insofar as the irradiation process has been deemed a safe way to protect food, consumers should be alerted by explicit labeling whenever such protective methods have been applied to food products.

It would be acting against the public interest, in my opinion, if the FDA were to allow less conspicuous labelling of irradiated food, such as inclusion in the list of ingredients. Most definitely the labelling requirement for irradiated foods should never be eliminated by the FDA.

I understand that red meat and poultry will be the most commonly irradiated foods, but essentially all fruits and vegetables (and spices & teas) can be legally irradiated in the United States. Given the unknown longterm effects of radiolytic chemical compounds that result from irradiation, it is imperative that the FDA maintain current standards that make it unlawful to irradiate organic foods.

Thank you for working in such a crucial and complex arena where the mandate to protect all food in the U.S.A. must seem overwhelming at times and require almost superhuman stamina and commitment from FDA staff. But your efforts affect us all!

Sincerely,



Michael Brush (age 54) (father)
(former journalist) (video producer)

98N-1038

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